

Message Text

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FOR: L/SCHWEBEL; EB/OIA KAUZLARICH; TREAS/CLAPP; COMM/ARRILL

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SUBJECT: TRANSNATIONAL CORPORATIONS COMMISSION: THIRD SESSION-
MAY 3, 1977

REF: A) E/C.10/26; B) E/C.10/L17; C) USUN 1341

1. SUMMARY: UNTNC CONCLUDED IN AFTERNOON SESSION DISCUS-
SION OF SECRETARIAT REPORT ON TNC ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN
AFRICA (REF. A) AND HEARD FURTHER COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLU-
TION (REF. B). RESOLUTION SUPPORTED BY KUWAIT, NIGERIA,
JAMAICA, VENEZUELA, CUBA, USSR, UKRAINE, GERMAN DEMOCRATIC
REPUBLIC, AND BULGARIA, WHILE US, UK, FRG, JAPAN RESERVED
POSITIONS PENDING FURTHER STUDY OF DOCUMENT AND CONSULTATIONS
WITH CAPTIALS. ICFTU, WFTU AND ORGANIZATION OF AFRICAN
TRADE UNION UNITY ALSO ENDORSED DRAFT RESOLUTION. END SUMMARY.

2. SOME TWENTY COUNTRIES COMMENTED ON SECRETARIAT REPORT
AND NIGERIAN DRAFT RESOLUTION. FOLLOWING SIMILAR REMARKS
MADE BY ALGERIA DURING MORNING SESSION, FIRST SPEAKER,
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KUWAIT, NOTED EXTENSIVE ACTIVITIES OF ISRAELI FIRMS IN
SOUTJ AFRICA AND FELT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS SHOULD BE MADE
IN CODE AGAINST ISRAELI PRACTICES OF EXPLOITING PEOPLE AND
RESOURCES OF OCCUPIED AREAS. LATTER PROPOSAL LATER PICKED
UP BY TUNISIA. USSR NOTED ALONG SAME LINES THAT TNCS NOT
ONLU COOPERATE WITH ILLEGAL REGIMES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA,
BUT ALSO HELP ISRAELI OCCUPIERS OPPRESS PEOPLES IN OCCU-

PIED TERRITORIES. SUGGESTED THESE ASPECTS ALSO BE CONSIDERED BY COMMISSION. SAIS USSR HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED "JUST" STRUGGLE OF PEOPLES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA.

3. PERU CHASTISED ACTIVITIES OF TNCS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA DESPITE EFFORTS BY SOME COUNTRIES TO CRUB THEM, AND AGREED ON NEED FOR INFORMATION ON NAMES OF TNCS WITH INVESTMENTS IN SOUTHER AFRICA, JAMAICA POINTED TO PARTICULAR RESPONSIBILITY OF HOME COUNTRIES TO SEE THAT THEIR TNCS ADHERE TO "GOALS OF INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY." CENTRE SHOULD MONITOR BREACH BY TNCS OF UN DECISIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. US DEL STATED HE SPOKE FOR COUNTRY WHERE HUMAN RIGHTS HAD FOR YEARS BEEN MOTIVATING FORCE FOR CHANGE. FOR PROGRESS MADE IN THAT DIRECTION, US WAS SECOND TO NONE. RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY UN ARE COMMITMENTS ALL UN MEMBERS MUST RESPECT. WITH REPEAL OF BYRD AMENDMENT, US IN POSITION TO FULLY IMPLEMENT UN DECISION REGARDING SOUTHERN RHODESIA. NOTED USG HAD URGED SOME US FIRMS TO PLAY POSITIVE ROLE IN SOUTHERN AFRICA AND RESULTS HAD BEEN GENERALLY GOOD AND STEP IN RIGHT DIRECTION. INDICATED DISSASTISFACTION WITH SECRETARIAT REPORT WHICH CONTAINED NUMBER OF INACCURACIES RE US TNC ACTIVITIES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EG. REPORT ON MOBIL (SOUTHER AFRICA) SUPPLYING OIL PRODUCTS TO SOUTHERN RHODESIA. OFFERED TO PROVIDE CENTRE WITH RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION. URGED ALL DELEGATIONS TO TAKE CAREFUL LOOK AT ALL SECRETARIAT REPORTS SINCE SESSION HAD BEEN CHARACTERIZED BY MASSIVE DOCUMENTATION WHICH NOBODY HAD AS YET HAD TIME TO ANALYSE. RESERVED POSITION ON DRAFT RESOLUTION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WHICH SERIOUS MATTER AND OF UTMOST IMPORTANCE AND MUST BE CAREFUL STUDIED BY USG.

5. UK DEL REBUTTED CHARGES AND ALLEGATIONS MADE CONCERNING CERTAIN UK TNCS WHICH CAST DOUBT ON UK DETERMINATION TO FULFULL ITS INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS. ALSO SAID THAT IVOR RICHARD HAS WRITTEN TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON APARTHEID PROTESTING THESE CHARGES. UK DEL COMPLAINED THAT THE SECRETARIAT REPORT IS MISLEADING, DISTORTED, AND INCOMPLETE. IT DOES NOT FORM A RELIABLE BASIS FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE ISSUES IN PURPORTS TO DEAL WITH THE DOES NOT REPRESENT BEST USE OF CENTRE'S SCARCE RESOUCES. THE UK RESPECTS THE ARMS EMBARGO ON SOUTH AFRICA AND THE REPORT DOES NOT TAKE ACCOUNT OF MAJOR STEPS TAKEN BY THE UK IN RELATION TO SOUTH AFRUCA. AS FOR RHODESIA, THE UK HAS HONORED THE UN SANCTIONS.FORMER UK SUDSIDIARIES IN RHODISIA NOW OPERATE AUTONOMOUSLY AND UK BASED FIRMS DO NOT CONDUCT BUSINESS IN RHODESIA. UK DEL NOTED THAT SOME USSR FOREIGN TRADE ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER STATE

TRADE ORGANIZATIONS FROM OTHER EAST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN RHODESIA. UK ATTACHES GREAT POLITICAL IMPORTANCE AND SENSITIVITY TO THE RESOLUTION ITSELF AND NEED TIME TO STUDY IT, ALTHOUGH UNLIKELY THAT THERE WILL BE A CONSENSUS ON THIS ISSUE. SUBSEQUENTLY, DELEGATIONS OF USSR, BULGARIA AND EAST GERMANY PROTESTED STRONGLY THE STATEMENT THAT SOME STATE TRADING ORGANIZATIONS HAVE ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH RHODESIA, CALLING IT TOTALLY FICTITIOUS AND OF NO RELEVANCE TO REPORT.

6. SWEDISH DEL STATED THAT HIS GOVERNMENT FAVORS INTERNATIONAL COORDINATION TO HAVE NEW INVESTMENT IN SOUTH AFRICA AND FAVORS A SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION TO PROHIBIT NEW INVESTMENT. HE WAS OPENLY SKEPTICAL OF EFFORTS OF SOME TNCs TO IMPROVE CONDITIONS OF WORKERS IN SOUTH AFRICA, PRESUMABLY REFERRING TO RECENT STATEMENT BY GROUP OF US TNCs AND UK GUIDELINES TO ITS TNCs. INDICATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SWEDEN HAS INTRODUCED LEGISLATION SUPPORTING SECURITY COUNCIL SANCTIONS AGAINST RHODESIA.

7. JAPAN DEL STATED HIS GOVERNMENT HAS ALREADY TAKEN STEPS REGARDING NEW INVESTMENT BY TNCs IN SOUTH AFRICA AND NEEDS TIME TO CONSULT HIS GOVERNMENT ON THE RESOLUTION. THE SECRETARIAT REPORT CONTAINS SOME ERRORS CONCERNING JAPANESE TNCs. JAPAN WILL PROVIDE A WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THESE CHARGES WHICH IT WANTS PUBLISHED.

8. WEST GERMAN DEL STATED THAT SECRETARIAT REPORT RAISES A QUESTION OF BALANCE AND QUESTION AS TO RELIABILITY OF SOURCES, ESPECIALLY PRESS ARTICLES. THE INFORMATION, IF FAULTY, CANNOT SERVE AS A BASIS FOR SOUND CONCLUSIONS. WEST GERMANY REJECTS APARTHEID WHEREVER. SOUTH AFRICA IS EXEMPT FROM ANY INVESTMENT INCENTIVES OR GUARANTEES OFFERED BY GOVERNMENT AND THERE IS NO ARMS SUPPLIED TO OR MILITARY COOPERATION WITH SOUTH AFRICA. GOVERNMENT ADHERES TO AND HAS PUNISHED VIOLATIONS OF THE RHODESIA SANCTIONS. GERMANY ENCOURAGES GOOD BEHAVIOR BY ITS TNCs IN ALL COUNTRIES AND QUESTIONS WHETHER IT IS ONLY BY A CESSATION OF INVESTMENT THAT WE CAN HELP BLACKS IN SOUTH AFRICA. NEEDS MORE TIME TO STUDY THE RESOLUTION.

9. SAHLGREN STATED IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT THE REPORT WHICH DREW PRIMARILY ON WORK OF OTHER UN AGENCIES WOULD HAVE SHORTCOMINGS. REPORT IS ILLUSTRATIVE RATHER THAN COMPREHENSIVE AND POLICIES OF SOME COUNTRIES, SUCH AS UK MAY HAVE BEEN OVERLOOKED.

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